AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled):

Claim 6 (Currently amended): An image reproduction device ~~according to claim 5,~~ which displays an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality of image files with main image information and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic reproduction file containing at least the description as to whether the automatic reproduction of said plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which said image files are reproduced, the device comprising:

a read unit which reads each file information stored in said image file storage medium;

a control unit which performs a control operation in such a manner that said read unit reads from said image file storage medium a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file;

an image development unit which develops the image file read by said read unit;

a storage element into which the image data developed by said image development unit are written; and

an image display unit which reads and displays a list of the thumbnail images written in said storage element;

wherein said control unit reads thumbnail images of all the image files from said image file storage medium, and

said image development unit develops the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file read by said read unit as a normal image and, also, develops a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as an image difficult to recognize;

wherein said image development unit comprises:

a file extension unit which is supplied with the image file information stored in said image file storage medium to extend the image file;

a write address generating unit which generates a write address for said storage element; and

a read address generating unit which generates a read address for said storage element, and

when developing the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the information of said automatic reproduction file, the write address for said storage element is generated discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule by said write address generating unit.

Claim 7 (Currently amended) An image reproduction device ~~according to claim 5,~~ which displays an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality of image files with main image information and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic reproduction file containing at least the description as to whether the automatic reproduction of said plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which said image files are reproduced, the device comprising:

a read unit which reads each file information stored in said image file storage medium;

a control unit which performs a control operation in such a manner that said read unit reads from said image file storage medium a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file;

an image development unit which develops the image file read by said read unit;

a storage element into which the image data developed by said image development unit are written; and

an image display unit which reads and displays a list of the thumbnail images written in said storage element;

wherein said control unit reads thumbnail images of all the image files from said image file storage medium, and

said image development unit develops the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file read by said read unit as a normal image and, also, develops a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as an image difficult to recognize;

wherein said image development unit comprises:

a file extension unit which is supplied with the image file information stored in said image file storage medium to extend the image file;

a write address generating unit which generates a write address for said storage element; and

a read address generating unit which generates a read address for said storage element, and

when developing the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the information of said automatic reproduction file, the read address for said storage element is generated discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule by said read address generating unit.

Claim 8 (Currently amended): An image reproduction device ~~according to claim 5,~~ which displays an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality of image files with main image information and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic reproduction file containing at least the description as to whether the automatic reproduction of said plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which said image files are reproduced, the device comprising:

a read unit which reads each file information stored in said image file storage medium;

a control unit which performs a control operation in such a manner that said read unit reads from said image file storage medium a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file;

an image development unit which develops the image file read by said read unit;

a storage element into which the image data developed by said image development unit are written; and

an image display unit which reads and displays a list of the thumbnail images written in said storage element;

wherein said control unit reads thumbnail images of all the image files from said image file storage medium, and

said image development unit develops the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file read by said read unit as a normal image and, also, develops a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as an image difficult to recognize;

wherein said image development unit comprises:

a file extension unit which is supplied with the image file information stored in said image file storage medium to extend the image file;

a write address generating unit which generates a write address for said storage element; and

a read address generating unit which generates a read address for said storage element, and

when developing the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the information of said automatic reproduction file, the write address for said storage element is generated discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule by said write address generating unit and, also, the read address for said storage element is generated discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule by said read address generating unit.

Claim 9 (Currently amended): An image reproduction device ~~according to claim 3,~~ which displays an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality of image files with main image information and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic reproduction file containing at least the description as to whether the automatic reproduction of said plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which said image files are reproduced, the device comprising:

a read unit which reads each file information stored in said image file storage medium;

a control unit which performs a control operation in such a manner that said read unit reads from said image file storage medium a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the

description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file;

an image development unit which develops the image file read by said read unit;

a storage element into which the image data developed by said image development unit are written; and

an image display unit which reads and displays a list of the thumbnail images written in said storage element;

wherein said storage element holds dummy image data corresponding to a thumbnail image, and

said control unit performs the control operation in such a manner that a dummy image is read from said storage element in place of the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file read by said read unit;

wherein said storage element holds first and second different dummy image data as said dummy images, and

said control unit performs the control operation in such a manner that the first dummy image is read from said storage element in place of the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file and, where the thumbnail image of the image file is not stored in said image file which contains the

description of automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file at the time of reading said thumbnail image from said image file storage medium, said control unit performs the control operation in such a manner that said second dummy image is read from said storage element.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): [[An]] The image reproduction device according to claim 9, wherein

said control unit performs a control operation in such a manner that after all the thumbnail images are output on an arbitrary screen, a main image of the image file having said thumbnail image not stored therein is read, and size of said main image is reduced to that of a thumbnail image, after which the image displayed as said second dummy image is replaced with said compressed thumbnail image.

Claim 11 (Cancelled):

Claim 12 (Currently amended): [[An]] The image reproduction device according to claim 9, further comprising:

an input unit for selectively determining whether the display of said dummy image of the thumbnail image displayed as said dummy image is canceled or not, wherein

said control unit performs the control operation in such a manner that in a case where the display of said dummy image is canceled by said input unit, the thumbnail image corresponding to the image is read from said image file.

Claims 13-18 (Cancelled):

Claim 19 (Currently amended): An image reproduction method ~~according to claim 18, wherein~~ which displays a thumbnail image of an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality of image files and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic reproduction file containing at least description of control information as to whether automatic reproduction of the plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which the image files are reproduced, comprising the steps of:

reading the automatic reproduction file information stored in the image file storage medium;

reading a thumbnail image information file of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file, from the image file storage medium; and

displaying a list of the thumbnail images that have been read;

displaying a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as a thumbnail image as it is; and

developing a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as an image difficult to recognize and displaying the thumbnail image;

said developing step comprises:

extending an image file in response to an input of said image file information stored in said image file storage medium;

when displaying the thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file stored in said image file storage medium, generating a write address discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule for a storage element into which the extended image data is written; and

generating a read address sequentially when reading the image data written in said storage element.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): An image reproduction method ~~according to claim 18, wherein~~ which displays a thumbnail image

of an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality of image files and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic reproduction file containing at least description of control information as to whether automatic reproduction of the plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which the image files are reproduced, comprising the steps of:

reading the automatic reproduction file information stored in the image file storage medium;

reading a thumbnail image information file of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file, from the image file storage medium; and

displaying a list of the thumbnail images that have been read;

displaying a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as a thumbnail image as it is; and

developing a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as an image difficult to recognize and displaying the thumbnail image;

said developing step comprises:

extending an image file in response to an input of said image file information stored in said image file storage medium;

generating the write address to said storage element sequentially; and

when displaying a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the information of said automatic reproduction file stored in said image file storage medium, generating a read address for reading the image data written in said storage element discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): An image reproduction method ~~according to claim 18, wherein~~ which displays a thumbnail image of an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality of image files and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic reproduction file containing at least description of control information as to whether automatic reproduction of the plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which the image files are reproduced, comprising the steps of:

reading the automatic reproduction file information stored in the image file storage medium;

reading a thumbnail image information file of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file, from the image file storage medium; and

displaying a list of the thumbnail images that have been read;

displaying a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as a thumbnail image as it is; and

developing a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as an image difficult to recognize and displaying the thumbnail image;

said developing step comprises:

extending an image file in response to an input of said image file information stored in said image file storage medium;

when displaying a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in the information of said automatic reproduction file stored in said image file storage medium, generating a write address for the storage element into which the extended image data is written discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule; and

generating a read address for reading the image data written in said storage element discontinuously in accordance with a predetermined rule.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): An image reproduction method ~~according to claim 16, comprising:~~ which displays a thumbnail image of an image file storage medium having stored therein a plurality of image files and thumbnail image information in an arbitrary format, and an automatic reproduction file containing at least description of control information as to whether automatic reproduction of the plurality of the image files is permitted or not and order in which the image files are reproduced, comprising the steps of:

reading the automatic reproduction file information stored in the image file storage medium;

reading a thumbnail image information file of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in the automatic reproduction file, from the image file storage medium; and

displaying a list of the thumbnail images that have been read;

displaying the image file with the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as a dummy image in place of the thumbnail image;

holding first and second different dummy image data as said dummy images;

displaying a thumbnail image of an image file which contains the description of non-automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file as a first dummy image; and

displaying said second dummy image where a thumbnail image of the image file which contains the description of automatic reproduction in said automatic reproduction file is read from said image file storage medium and not stored in said image file.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): [[An]] The image reproduction method according to claim 22, comprising:

outputting all the thumbnail images on an arbitrary screen;

reading a main image of an image file having no thumbnail images therein; and

after minimizing a size of said main image to a size of said thumbnail image, replacing the image displayed as said second dummy image with said compressed thumbnail image.

Claims 24-26 (Cancelled):